THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Use of DPEA Funds

1324. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 315 given in Rajya Sabha on 28th July, 1994 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Law Ministry advised the Ministry in 1990-91 that provision for using DPEA funds be incorporated into DPCO, 1987, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that former Development Commissioner (PI) was sitting over these paper and that he has not mentioned even during the review of 1986 policy that such an advice has been obtained from Law Ministry;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(d) whether it is a fact that neither the Minister-in-charge nor the Committee of Secretaries have been informed of the position, if so, what are the full facts and who is responsible for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Provision for using DPEA Funds already exists under paragraph 14(2) of the Drug (Prices Control) Order, 1987.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Clearance to Pepsi and Indian organic Chemical Limited Project

1325. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the foreign Investment Promotion Board has cleared a joint project between Pepsi and Indian Organic Chemicals Limited for manufacturing plastic PET bottles and import of plastic waste from the United States;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Indian and United States have not signed any waste trade agreement and hence it is violation of International law;

(c) whether Government are aware of the serious environmental and health problems in the event of import of plastic waste; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a), (c) and (d) Govt. of India has approved in October, 1993 a 100 per cent EOU project of Pepsico Inc., USA for manufacture of 20,000 MTs of Virgin Polyester chips of Beverage bottle grade. The project is being implemented by a company viz. M/s. Futura Polymers Ltd. which is a joint venture of Indian Organic Chemicals Limited (IOCL) and Pepsico having 48.72 per cent and 51.28 per cent of equity. PET waste is not used as a raw material for this project. There is no contract between IOCL and Pensico for import of PET waste from USA.

Government are well aware of the environmnetal and health problems in the event of import of plastic waste. Recycling of most of the plastic is non-hazardous provided toxic material has not been stored in it. Accordingly, as per the present import policy, import of all kinds of plastic scrap/waste except PET bottle waste is permissible only against an import licence. This has been done so as to avoid indiscriminate import of hazardous material and to encourage recycling of domestic waste of plastics